

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An auxiliary electric heater for automotive vehicles, comprising
a housing which is made open on longitudinal faces thereof, and
a layered structure including
at least one PTC heating element,
a radiator element,
contact sheets for power supply, and
a resilient element, the layered structure being kept clamped in the housing by the
resilient element,
wherein an opening is provided in a lateral face of the housing for inserting the resilient
element.
2. (Original) The electric heater according to claim 1, wherein a resilient channel is formed in the
housing for receiving the resilient element.
3. (Previously Presented) The electric heater according to claim 1, further comprising positioning
means for pre-fixing the elements of the heater in the housing.
4. (Previously Presented) The electric heater according to claim 3, wherein the positioning means
simultaneously form a groove for guiding the resilient element during insertion.
5. (Previously Presented) The electric heater according to claim 1, wherein the longitudinal faces
of the housing are mechanically reinforced by at least one transverse strut.

6. (Previously Presented) The electric heater according to claim 5, wherein the struts in the longitudinal faces of the housing have the shape of a grid structure.
7. (Previously Presented) The electric heater according to claim 5, wherein the grid structure has at least one longitudinal strut in the area of the PTC heating element.
8. (Original) The electric heater according to claim 1, wherein said housing is made from plastics.
9. (Previously Presented) The electric heater according to claim 1, wherein the layered structure includes multiple PTC heating elements, and wherein the housing further comprises positioning means for keeping the PTC heating elements mutually spaced apart.
10. (Original) The electric heater according to claim 1, wherein the housing comprises two half-shells.
11. (Original) The electric heater according to claim 10, wherein the half-shells of the housing can be put together.
12. (Previously Presented) The electric heater according to claim 11, further comprising locking pins or locking noses which, when the half-shells of the housing are put together, effect an interlocking of the two half-shells.
13. (Currently Amended) The electric heater according to claim 10, wherein the half-shells are configured such that they separate the housing approximately in the middle between the longitudinal faces of the housing.
14. (Previously Presented) The electric heater according to claim 13, further comprising respectively opposite projections provided on a separation line of the half-shells which will engage each other when the half-shells are assembled.

15. (Previously Presented) The electric heater according to claim 1, wherein the resilient element comprises a sheet member with resilient segments projecting therefrom.
16. (Previously Presented) The electric heater according to claim 1, wherein the resilient element is configured such that it transmits clamping forces essentially onto reinforced longitudinal sides of the housing.
17. (Cancelled)
18. (Currently Amended) The electric heater according to claim 15~~47~~, wherein each of the resilient segments extends into edge portions of longitudinal sides of the sheet member.
19. (Previously Presented) The electric heater according to claim 18, wherein the sheet member is made integral with the resilient segments.
20. (Previously Presented) The electric heater according to claim 15, wherein the layered structure includes multiple PTC heating elements, and wherein at least one resilient segment is provided at each PTC heating element position for a frictional clamping action.
21. (Original) The electric heater according to claim 20, wherein at least two resilient segments are provided for each PTC heating element position.
22. (Original) The electric heater according to claim 1, further comprising at least one seal for sealing longitudinal struts relative to the PTC heating elements.
23. (Previously Presented) The electric heater according to claim 22, wherein the longitudinal faces of the housing are mechanically reinforced by transverse struts having the shape of a grid structure, and wherein the seal seals a whole grid structure.

24. (Original) The electric heater according to claim 23, wherein the seal for a housing side is respectively made integral.
25. (Previously Presented) A housing for an auxiliary heater for automotive vehicles, the housing comprising:
a housing structure for receiving a layered structure including at least one PTC heating element, a radiator element, contact sheets for power supply, and a resilient element, wherein the housing structure has a lateral opening for insertion of the resilient element.
26. (Previously Presented) The housing according to claim 25, wherein a resilient channel is formed in the housing structure for inserting the resilient element.
27. (Previously Presented) The housing according to claim 25, further comprising positioning means in the housing structure for pre-fixing the elements of the heater.
28. (Previously Presented) The housing according to claim 27, wherein the positioning means in the housing structure form a groove for guiding the resilient element at the same time.
29. (Previously Presented) The housing according to claim 25, wherein the housing structure has longitudinal faces that are mechanically reinforced by at least one transverse strut.
30. (Previously Presented) The housing according to claim 29, wherein the struts in the longitudinal faces of the housing structure have an open configuration and are in the form of a grid structure.
31. (Original) The housing according to claim 25, wherein the housing is made from plastics.
32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented) An auxiliary electric heater for an automotive vehicle, the electric heater comprising:
- a housing having open longitudinal faces; and
 - a layered structure including of at least one PTC heating element, a radiator element, contact sheets for power supply, and a resilient element, the layered structure being clamped in the housing by the resilient element, wherein an opening is provided in a lateral face of the housing for inserting the resilient element.
34. (Original) The electric heater according to claim 33, wherein a resilient channel is formed in the housing for receiving the resilient element.
35. (Original) The electric heater according to claim 33, further comprising positioning means for pre-fixing the elements of the heater in the housing.
36. (Previously Presented) The electric heater according to claim 33, wherein the longitudinal faces of the housing are mechanically reinforced by at least one transverse strut.
37. (Original) The electric heater according to claim 33, wherein the housing comprises positioning means for keeping the PTC heating elements mutually spaced apart.
38. (Original) The electric heater according to claim 33, wherein the housing comprises two half-shells.
39. (Original) The electric heater according to claim 33, wherein the resilient element comprises a sheet member with resilient segments projecting therefrom.
40. (Original) The electric heater according to claim 33, wherein the resilient element is configured such that it transmits the clamping forces essentially onto reinforced longitudinal sides of the housing.

41. (Previously Presented) An auxiliary electric heater for an automotive vehicle, the electric heater comprising:
- a housing having open longitudinal faces; and
 - a layered structure including of at least one PTC heating element, a radiator element, contact sheets for power supply, and a resilient element, the layered structure being clamped in the housing by the resilient element, wherein an opening is provided in a lateral face of the housing for inserting the resilient element, wherein the resilient element is configured such that it transmits the clamping forces essentially onto reinforced longitudinal sides of the housing, and wherein the sides of the housing are reinforced by longitudinal struts, and further comprising at least one seal for sealing the longitudinal struts relative to the PTC heating elements.
42. (Canceled)
43. (Previously Presented) The electric heater according to claim 1, wherein the opening is fully enclosed about an entire perimeter thereof.
44. (Previously Presented) The housing according to claim 25, wherein the opening is fully enclosed about an entire perimeter thereof.
45. (Previously Presented) The electric heater according to claim 33, wherein the opening is fully enclosed about an entire perimeter thereof.